(b) whether it is a fact that Government are indiscriminately curtailing the kerosene allotment to the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government consider to increase the allotment of kerosene due to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBASH MAHARIA): (a) Allocation of 236758 MTs of Kerosene has been made to the Government of Kerala for 2002-2003.

(b) and (c) In line with the policy of reducing Kerosene allocation against LPG connections released in various States/UTs. including Kerala, kerosene allocation to Kerala has also been reduced.

(d) No, Sir.

Amendments in Consumer Protection Act

2372. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering further amendments in the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scope of consumer protection services has been further expanded; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986) has recently been amended vide the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 (62 of 2002) to widen the scope of the Act so as to make it more effective and purposeful.

Creation of Sugar Board

2373. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: